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# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Reissue Application of: : Group Art Unit: **To Be Assigned**  
**Pinkham** :  
 Patent No.: **5,906,223** : Examiner: **To Be Assigned**  
 For: **Chromatography Valve Assembly** : Date: **August 15, 2001**  
 Reissue Application No.: **To Be Assigned** :  
 Filing Date: **To Be Assigned** :

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, please amend the same as follows:

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph starting at line 46 of column 1 with the following paragraph:

Fluid can flow through the prior art valve assembly 10 depicted in FIG. 1A in any one of the three directions depicted in FIGS. 1B-1D. The fluid flow is represented by arrows 25 in these figures. In FIG. 1B, which represents the forward product flow through the column, valve 14a is opened allowing the fluid to flow from the process piping into the valve assembly 10. Valve 16a is also opened allowing the fluid to flow into the chromatography column (not shown). The fluid returns from the chromatography column passing through valve 16b and reentering the valve assembly. The fluid leaves the valve assembly passing through valve 14b on its path back to the